

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 CU-04

NIC-01 SY-07 AID-20 RSR-01 /124 W  
----- 056518

R 291846 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8772

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, SCEN, FR

SUBJECT: STUDENT AGITATION

1. FOR PAST TEN DAYS HIGH- SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PARIS AND THROUGHOUT COUNTRY HAVE BEEN MANIFESTING THEIR HOSTILITY TO THE SO- CALLED "LAW DEBRE." SEVERAL MASS DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD IN PARIS AND THE PROVINCES AND SOME LYCEES HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN BY STUDENT STRIKES.

2. THE DEBRE LAW, WHICH WAS ADOPTED AFTER PAINSTAKING CONSULTATIONS AND BY A NEARLY UNANIMOUS VOTE IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1970, COMES INTO EFFECT THIS YEAR. IT LIMITS DRAFT DEFERMENTS FOR STUDENTS AND WAS ADOPTED TO ACHIEVE EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL DRAFT-ELIGIBLE YOUNG MEN, WHETHER IN SCHOOL OR NOT.

3. WHILE THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT GREAT NUMBER OF STUDENTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HOW TO FIT THEIR MILITARY SERVICE INTO THEIR STUDY PROGRAM, DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED AND FUELED BY A TINY MINORITY OF COMMUNIST AND EXTREME- LEFT STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS. BALMY WEATHER, AND WHAT HAS BECOME A TRADITION OF TAKING TO THE STREETS IN THE SPRING, HAS ASSURED WIDESPREAD PARTICIPATION OF  
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HIGH- SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PARIS AND THROUGHOUT FRANCE. DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE SO FAR BEEN GENERALLY PEACEFUL AND POLICE HAVE SHOWN RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH STUDENTS. NEITHER WORKERS NOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HAVE PARTICIPATED MASSIVELY. ( CGT AND CFDT, FRANCE' S MAIN LABOR UNIONS, HAVE, HOWEVER, BOTH ISSUED STATEMENTS SUPPORTING STUDENT GOALS, AS HAS COMMUNIST PARTY).

4. WE EXPECT PROTEST WILL AT SOME POINT BE CHanneled FROM STREETS INTO STUDY COMMISSION WHERE GOVERNMENT AND YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES CAN RENEW DIALOGUE ON DEFERMENT QUESTION. HOWEVER, EXTREME- LEFT STUDENT GROUPS APPEAR BENT ON EXPLOITING ISSUE TO TRY TO PROVOKE SOCIAL DISORDERS ON A LARGER SCALE. SOME 1500 OF THESE STUDENTS ARE REPORTEDLY NOW OCCUPYING THE SORBONNE, WHEREIN THEY HOPE TO ESTABLISH A RALLYING CENTER FOR OTHER STUDENTS AND WORKERS.

5. THESE EVENTS, OF COURSE, ARE REMINISCENT OF THE BEGINNINGS OF THE STUDENT- WORKER RIOTS OF MAY 1968. AT THIS TIME IT APPEARS THAT POLICE HAVE THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND AND WE DOUBT THAT SERIOUS RIOTING WILL ENSUE. NONETHELESS, WE ARE KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON THE SITUATION AND WE WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ADDRESSEE POSTS INFORMED. DECONTROL 12/31/74.

IRWIN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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